

Introduced by Senator Wright

January 27, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11—Relative to the integration of college sports.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 11, as introduced, Wright. Integration of college sports.

This measure would recognize the actions of Samuel Cunningham Jr. and John Papadakis in the integration of college sports, and urge all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans in communities throughout California and beyond during Black History Month and throughout the year.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California is a diverse state with citizens from all
2 corners of the world; and

3 WHEREAS, The history of the state is rich with inspirational
4 stories of great men and women whose actions, words, and
5 achievements have united all Americans and contributed to the
6 greater success and prosperity of our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Among those Americans who have enriched our
8 society are members of the African American community,
9 individuals responsible for countless efforts, movements,
10 achievements, and contributions, documented and undocumented,
11 in the political, cultural, and social history of California that should
12 be highlighted; and

13 WHEREAS, The integration of college sports was a turning
14 point in the civil rights movement in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, The loss by the University of Alabama to the
2 University of Southern California on September 12, 1970, is widely
3 seen as sweeping away the last remnants of the racial divide in
4 college football; and

5 WHEREAS, Fullback Samuel Lewis Cunningham, Jr.'s notable
6 performance in that game for the University of Southern California
7 was a factor in convincing the University of Alabama to integrate
8 southern football; and

9 WHEREAS, John Papadakis, defensive captain at the University
10 of Southern California, was a key factor in the defeat of the
11 University of Alabama; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
14 recognizing the actions of Samuel Cunningham Jr. and John
15 Papadakis in the integration of college sports, and urges all citizens
16 to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans
17 in communities throughout California and beyond during Black
18 History Month and throughout the year; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.